

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02738 300100Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 DOE-15 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-01 NSC-05
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R 300053Z JUN 78 ZDS
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2354
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 02738

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TSPA, UNGA
SUBJECT: OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE: US-JAPAN BILATERALS

1. USDEL AND TWO MEMBERS OF JAPANESE DELEGATION MET JUNE
29 TO DISCUSS ONGOING WORK OF OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE.

2. JAPANESE DEL KATO POINTED OUT THAT IN TOKYO'S
JUDGEMENT THE MEETINGS OF THE OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE
ITSELF ARE USUALLY LESS IMPORTANT THAN THOSE OF THE
SUBCOMMITTEES, BUT THIS YEAR IT HAS NEW IMPORTANCE
IN DISCUSSING NUCLEAR POWER ISSUE AND MOON
TREATY. HE STATED THAT NUCLEAR POWER IN SPACE IS QUITE
IMPORTANT TO HIS DELEGATION BECAUSE JAPANESE PUBLIC
OPINION REMAINS A FACTOR IN THIS ISSUE. HE STATED,
THOUGH, THAT HIS DELEGATION WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO
INSURE US INTERESTS BE KEPT IN MIND. HE ALSO STATED
THAT HE PERSONALLY HAD TONED DOWN THE INITIAL DRAFT
OF JAPANESE SPEECH WHICH SPOKE IN TERMS OF SATELLITES
FOR DESTRUCTIVE USE. JAPANESE DELS STATED THAT THEY
WOULD BE MEETING WITH CANADIAN AND SOVIET DELS ON THE
SUBJECT OF AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS.

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3. JAPANESE ASKED IF SOVIETS AGREE WITH ESTABLISHMENT
OF WORKING GROUP ON NUCLEAR POWER SOURCE IN SPACE AND
VOLUNTEERED THEIR ASSESSMENT THAT SOVIETS WILL BE
RELUCTANT TO GO ALONG. THEY POINTED OUT THAT TOKYO
BELIEVES NUCLEAR POWER ISSUE SHOULD BE A MAJOR
AGENDA ITEM FOR THE NEXT LSC MEETING AND THAT THE
JAPANESE DIET WANTS SOME INITIATIVE TAKEN IN THIS AREA.

THEY INDICATED THEY HAVE A REQUIREMENT TO MAKE STATEMENTS FOR HOME CONSUMPTION BUT WANT TO TAKE A CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH WITHOUT EMBARRASSING FRIENDLY COUNTRIES.

4. ON MOON TREATY, JAPANESE DIDN'T SEE ANY POSSIBILITY OF SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS BUT INDICATED THAT MATTER SHOULD BE TAKEN UP IN FUTURE MEETINGS OF LSC. JAPANESE DEL AGREED WITH US ASSESSMENTS OF STATUS OF THE TREATY AND AUSTRIAN INTEREST IN FURTHERING PROGRESS. HE STATED THAT CAUTIOUS APPROACH WOULD MAKE SENSE AND, IN AND CASE, TOKYO WOULD HAVE TO REVIEW ISSUE MORE FULLY. HE INDICATED THE JAPANESE WOULD BE SUPPORTIVE OF MORE DELIBERATE AND CAUTIOUS APPROACH IN THEIR STATEMENT.

5. ON OUTER SPACE CONFERENCE, THEY QUERIED US ON PERCEPTION THAT US POLICY HAD CHANGED FROM NON-SUPPORT FOR A CONFERENCE TO ONE ENDORSING IT. USDEL POINTED OUT THAT WE DID NOT BELIEVE CONFERENCE SHOULD DEAL WITH ANY ISSUES UNDER DISCUSSION IN OSC BUT SHOULD FOCUS ON THE BENEFITS OF SPACE TECHNOLOGY. THE JAPANESE FELT THAT THE SOVIETS MAY WANT TO INTRODUCE LEGAL ASPECTS INTO THE CONFERENCE.
LEONARD

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